

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claim 52 is pending, and has been amended.

Claim 52 again was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,966,496 (Takimoto). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 52 recites, *inter alia*, only two reproduction heads, the two reproduction heads having different azimuth angles, in combination with controlling tracking in different manners and writing in different manners in accordance with the discrimination result and information indicating a relationship between a track and the azimuth angles.

However, Applicants respectfully submit that Takimoto fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed combination of claimed features as recited, *inter alia*, in Claim 52. Applicants respectfully note that Takimoto discloses, e.g., four heads which do not operate as claimed.

It is further respectfully submitted that there has been no showing of any indication of motivation in the cited documents that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at such claimed features.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C., office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address below.

Respectfully submitted,

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